

replacement pages 5, 7 and 8, copies of which are attached to today's response.

IN THE CLAIMS

Amend claims 1 and 7 as follows:

1. [Three times amended] A method for producing a flexible and low density cross-linking gel for connecting optical fibres having a refractive index, said method comprising: adjusting the refractive index of a flexible silicone gel material to be that generally equal to the refractive index of said optical fibres to be connected, and a reaction step for causing the flexible silicone gel material adjusted in "said" 1 compounding step by cross-linking said silicone gel material to an extent such that a gel having a low degree of cross-linking is produced for closely adhering to optical fibres; and wherein said adjustment step and said reaction step are carried out in a clean room.

7. [Three times amended] A method for producing a low cross-linking density gel used for connecting and for adhering to optical fibres, said method comprising:

adjusting the refractive index of a flexible silicone gel material to that of said optical fibres to that of said optical fibers to be connected, a synthesizing step for synthesizing a composition by adding a cross-linking agent to said adjusted flexible silicone gel material; a filling step for filling said composition into a syringe; a sealing step for sealing said